IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 15-23, 33, and 34 as shown below. Please cancel claims 3, 14, and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

entering user input to a source application on a first computer system to request performance of a task;

performing the task <u>on the first computer system</u> in response to the user input;

generating a message in response to the user input, wherein the message comprises one or more instructions which are computer-executable to perform the task, and wherein the message comprises metadata which comprise identifying characteristics of the source application;

translating the message from an original format to a portable format on the first computer system, thereby generating a portable message; [[and]]

storing the portable message in a message log<u>;</u>

<u>retrieving the portable message from the message log; and</u>

<u>executing the one or more instructions to perform the task on one or more</u> <u>additional computer systems</u>.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

retrieving the portable message from the message log; and

executing the one or more instructions to perform the task again <u>on the first</u> <u>computer system</u>.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the message log comprises a queue.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

     sorting the message log by one or more elements of the metadata.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

     sorting the message log by application type of the source application.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

     sorting the message log by message sender.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

     sorting the message log by message recipient.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

     sending the portable message from the first computer system to a second computer system using peer-to-peer message passing between the first computer system, the second computer system, and optionally one or more intermediary computer systems; and

     performing the requested task on the second computer system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

     routing the portable message to a target application on the second computer system based on the metadata.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1,

     wherein the portable format comprises XML, and wherein the portable message comprises an XML message.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

receiving user input at a source application on a first computer system to request performance of a task;

performing the task <u>on the first computer system</u> in response to the user input;

generating a message in response to the user input, wherein the message comprises one or more instructions which are computer-executable to perform the task, and wherein the message comprises metadata which comprise identifying characteristics of the source application;

translating the message from an original format to a portable format on the first computer system, thereby generating a portable message; [[and]]

storing the portable message in a message log<u>;</u>

<u>retrieving the portable message from the message log; and</u>

<u>executing the one or more instructions to perform the task on one or more additional computer systems.</u>

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium of claim 12, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

retrieving the portable message from the message log; and

executing the one or more instructions to perform the task again <u>on the first computer system</u>.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium of claim 12, wherein the message log comprises a queue.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium of claim 12, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

sorting the message log by one or more elements of the metadata.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium of claim 12, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

sorting the message log by application type of the source application.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium of claim 12, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:
sorting the message log by message sender.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium of claim 12, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:
sorting the message log by message recipient.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium of claim 12, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:
sending the portable message from the first computer system to a second computer system using peer-to-peer message passing between the first computer system, the second computer system, and optionally one or more intermediary computer systems; and
performing the requested task on the second computer system.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium of claim 20, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:
routing the portable message to a target application on the second computer system based on the metadata.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium of claim 12,
wherein the portable format comprises XML, and wherein the portable message comprises an XML message.

23. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a CPU;
a memory which is coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions which are executable by the CPU to:

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receive user input at a source application to request performance of a task;

perform the task in response to the user input;

generate a message in response to the user input, wherein the message comprises one or more instructions which are computer-executable to perform the task, and wherein the message comprises metadata which comprise identifying characteristics of the source application;

translate the message from an original format to a portable format on the first computer system, thereby generating a portable message; and

store the portable message in a message log;

a second CPU; and

a second memory which is coupled to the second CPU, wherein the second memory stores additional program instructions which are executable by the second CPU to execute the one or more instructions in the portable message to perform the task again.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

retrieve the portable message from the message log; and

execute the one or more instructions to perform the task again.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) The system of claim 23,

wherein the message log comprises a queue.

27. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

sort the message log by one or more elements of the metadata.

28. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

sort the message log by application type of the source application.

29. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

sort the message log by message sender.

30. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

sort the message log by message recipient.

31. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

send the portable message to a second computer system using peer-to-peer message passing between a first computer system, a second computer system, and optionally one or more intermediary computer systems; and

perform the requested task on the second computer system.

[[33]]32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[32]]31, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

route the portable message to a target application on the second computer system based on the metadata.

[[34]]33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23,

wherein the portable format comprises XML, and wherein the portable message comprises an XML message.